



Doctor  
James  
Naismith

Yale, Cornell, and Chicago had teams in 1893-5. Basketball was played in the Missouri Valley as early as 1899 the year after Dr. Naismith had come to the University of Kansas as instructor in physical education, and director of chapel exercises.

There are now no authentic figures as to the number of persons playing the game, but John Griffith, Big Ten commissioner, is authority for the statement that 96 per cent of the high schools and colleges of America have basketball teams.

#### KANSAS IN OLYMPIC COMPETITION

March, 1936

District Tournament		Inter-District Tournament	
Kansas	33	} Kansas	34
Washburn	30		
Okla.A.&M.	36	} Okla.A.&M.	28
Nebraska	19		
		First game	Kan. Utah S.
		Second game	37 42
		Third game	31 50

District tournament figures but not inter-district included in summary on page 18. See page 32

#### THE INVENTOR OF THE GAME

**DR. JAMES NAISMITH**, inventor of the game of basketball, has been a member of the faculty of the University of Kansas since 1898, coming to this institution shortly after he had completed a medical course at Denver University. For the first few years he combined duties of chapel leader with those of instruction in physical education. Since 1906, he has been professor of physical education, and has been at the University continuously except a few months as chaplain with the Twentieth Kansas on the Mexican border, and a little short of two years with the Y.M.C.A. in France during the World War.

Dr. Naismith attended the grade school at Almonte, Canada, his birthplace, and later attended the high school a few miles away. His parents died when he was 8 years old, and he was brought up in the home of an uncle. Midway in his high school career he became disgusted with the type of companion he found himself with, so went to work on his uncle's farm in summers, and in the woodlot in winters.

Then came a resolve to be a minister, and he re-entered high school, where he was returned to the beginning class. Nevertheless, he completed the course in two years and entered McGill University. There he joined in sports of his classmates, rising at 6 for football practice, since some of the other students were busy until nightfall. He devised a cotton flannel headgear to protect his ears—a few years later modern leather headgear, following much the same pattern appeared.

While taking his seminary course at McGill, an incident occurred that turned Naismith's career. One day in football practice something went wrong, and the guard next him began swearing loudly. Suddenly he stopped, and turned to Naismith.

"I beg your pardon, Jim. I didn't notice you were there," he said.

"I hadn't paid particular attention," says Dr. Naismith, "for I had heard more fluent swearing than that in the lumber camps of Canada. It set me thinking about this matter of per-